

NARRATIVE OF THE U. S. NAVAL STATION, TONGUE POINT,
ASTORIA, OREGON

1 April 1947 to 30 June 1947

On 1 April 1947 the U. S. Naval Station, Tongue Point, Astoria, Oregon, was under the command of Captain Colin Campbell, USN, who assumed command on 31 March 1947.

Much has happened during the last quarter. One thing of great interest to all hands was the authorization from Bureau of Yards and Docks to begin work on the former WAVE's Barracks for use as an enlisted men's recreation building. ^{1/} The tentative date for opening has been set for 15 July 1947.

Another development of great interest was the completion of the dispensary annex for naval dependents. Patients are now being received there and are receiving the finest of medical care.

On 4 April the APL 26 (Subgroup II) arrived from Portland and is now berthed at berth (A), pier #3. Pier #3 was completed this same week and the ships from Port Docks were temporarily berthed to make room for the inactivation operations at Port Docks.

Thirty-five LCS's, twenty-four from Port Docks and eleven from Portland, twenty-one LCS's from Portland, were moved alongside on 11 April. At the same time two LST's were sent from Tongue Point to Port Docks for sandblasting. On 18 April, twenty-two LST's, sixteen LSM's, two YTS's were brought to Tongue Point from Portland.

On 26 April fourteen LSM's, six LSM(R)'s, and two APL's arrived from Portland.

1/ Spdltr to Coml3 dtd 11 April 1947.

Pier #1 was completed 30 April, fifteen days ahead of schedule.^{1/}

During the month of April authority was received to disestablish the Fleet Boat Pool, at Tongue Point, on Tuesday, 8 April 1947.^{2/}

A letter was submitted to the Chief of Naval Operations via the Commandant, Thirteenth Naval District, requesting the establishment of a commissary store to serve personnel of the Naval Station and Columbia River Group living in the Astoria Area.^{3/}

Rear Admiral A. G. Noble, USN (DNCO Material), accompanied by three officers and Rear Admiral P. K. Fischer, USN, (Deputy Commander Pacific Reserve Fleet), with two officers, arrived at Clatsop County Airport on 16 April 1947. The purpose of their visit was to observe the berthing areas and to discuss matters pertaining to the logistic support of the Pacific Reserve Fleet.

On 2 May an AKA #44 arrived from Bremerton and was turned over to the Maritime Commission.

Permission was given for the ARD13 and ARD30 to remain in active service for post-war work at Tongue Point. The ARD 13 arrived from Portland 7 May, and was berthed on the north side of Pier #7.

The galley at Port Docks was disestablished 8 May. The remaining personnel there were to be fed by hot-food wagons from the Tongue Point galley.

Word received that the Bureau of Yards and Docks' project for construction of a chapel has been approved by the Secretary of the

1/ Com13 letter dtd 18 April 1947.

2/ ComWesSeaFron letter to Com13 dtd 11 April 1947.

3/ Spdltr to Com13 dated 11 April 1947.

Navy when construction funds become available. By separate correspondence the Commanding Officer has requested the Commandant to have the District Public Works Officer prepare plans and specifications at the earliest practicable date, in order that no delay may be encountered when funds are available.

All inactivated ships were transferred from Port Docks to Tongue Point by 9 May, and the only ships left at Port Docks were the LST's being sandblasted. This operation involves only Pier No. 2 and will continue until the first of July. However, Pier No. 1 and Pier No. 3 are ready to be returned to the Port of Astoria.

Also on 9 May, ten (10) LCI(L)'s, seven PC's, one ARD arrived at Tongue Point from Portland.

Rear Admirals S. S. Kennedy and P. K. Fischer visited the Tongue Point Naval Station to find out about the repair facilities available at the Tongue Point, Astoria, Oregon area, and to discuss the best means of accomplishing the periodic overhaul of the vessels of the Columbia River Group.^{1/}

Miss Jennie Clyde Hollis from the Bureau of Naval Personnel visited the station for the purpose of reviewing the educational program. At her request a fully accredited testing program was set up and general educational development tests of both high school and college levels were made available for all hands interested in getting high school diplomas or obtaining credit in approved colleges.^{2/}

^{1/} CO's weekly news memo to Com13 dtd 2 May 1947.

^{2/} CO's weekly news letter to Com13 dtd 16 May 1947.

In honor of Naval Reserve Week the Station was opened to all visitors on 25 May. Approximately 400 visitors visited the station.

On 23 May one YF, five LCVP's, one LSM, one LCM, and two LST's arrived at Tongue Point from Portland, and on 2 June 1947 three LST's, one fireboat, four LSM's and one YR arrived from Portland.

Commodore L. N. Moeller, CEC, USN, Superintending Civil Engineer, Areas VI and VII, and Commander J. D. Burley, CEC, USN, Deputy Superintending Civil Engineer, Area VII, Seattle, Washington, arrived for routine inspection of Public Works construction. All ships are now berthed at Tongue Point, with the exception of the following, which are still at Puget Sound:

AFDL-4

AFDL-33

AN-80

ATA-123

ATA-240

LST-1085

YTB-338

YTB-382.

AN-80 arrived from Seattle on June 13 and on 16 June Rear Admiral John Harper, MC, USN, arrived for routine inspection of the medical facilities. On 23 June, Rear Admiral Sylvester, USN, and Captain Bay, USN, arrived at the Station to discuss repairs of Pacific Reserve Fleet vessels at Tongue Point.

On 20 June, the Portland Group was disestablished at 1000, and all papers were transferred to Tongue Point. On 30 June, the Naval Berthing Facility, Swan Island, was disestablished.

Gaining a second round TKO and a decision, big Jim Humphries of SubGroup No. 1 downed his opponent to win the all-Navy heavy-weight championship for the Thirteenth, Twelfth, and Seventeenth Naval Districts. Bill McCoy, the Naval Station representative at San Francisco, lost out in the decision in his first bout to the contender of the Seventeenth Naval District.

The greatest problem facing the Station in the past has been the fluctuation of personnel; for example, the personnel count for officers and enlisted men for both station and group was as follows:

OFFICERS ON BOARD

	<u>Naval Station</u>	<u>Columbia River Group</u>
April 1	28	195
May 1	23	185
June 1	22	176

ENLISTED MEN ON BOARD

Naval Station Columbia River Group

April 1	175	1764
May 1	198	1723
June 1	272	2045